

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

Marcia Abbott Weeks
Business Manager

Catherine A. Stankard
Director of Teaching and Learning

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS

320 Ocean House Road
P.O. Box 6267

Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
Phone: (207) 799-2217 Fax: (207) 799-2914

Donna H. Wolfrom Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
dwolfrom@CapeElizabethSchools.org

April 8, 2020
6:26 PM

Good evening! I hope that you and your family are now settling into a new routine and that you are finding some positives on which to focus as we move through this difficult and challenging time. Tuesday night at 8:32 PM I received a set of **Updated Recommendations and Guidance from Commissioner Makin-Planning for Remainder of the 19-20 School Year**. The guidance stated as follows: “As you may know, US CDC guidance recommends an 8 to 20-week timeframe for avoiding large group/in person instruction once there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19. There, I am recommending, with the support of the Governor, that you ***begin to plan to replace classroom/group instruction with remote/distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020.***”

While this recommendation appears to focus just on planning, the Commissioner of Education has just announced further clarification of her message: schools should continue with remote learning for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year, buildings should remain closed to students. I have heard from several parents of seniors who have written about how heartbreaking this all is for them. I agree, it is very heartbreaking, but it is the reality that we have to deal with.

So, in compliance with the directive from the Commissioner of Education, Cape Elizabeth School students will continue with remote, on-line learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This decision will allow us to make the decisions and plans that we need to make for the rest of the school year, such as what will the end of school look like, when will the last day of school be for students and for staff, how will we engage in end-of-year celebrations, and many other end-of-year decisions that we *must* begin to make.

Administrators and staff will now be able to move forward in the decision-making and planning process as we face these difficult decisions with creativity, and at least some direction. Teachers will be able to plan instruction for the remainder of the year, families will be able to make scheduling plans, and we can at least say for certain that we can fall into some routine for the next two months, and we can move forward with strategies for student milestones.

As we make these decisions throughout the next two months we will continue to communicate the plans. We are all working in uncharted territory, never thinking we would have to finish out the year learning from home, not being able to engage in celebrations with family and friends. Who would have ever thought we might be planning for a graduation in July or August?

Please continue to take every precaution with your health, and look for the positives in these challenging times. We will let you know as plans progress, and will look forward to starting school together in September.

Stay well, Donna